

Final Comments



The Franklin County Commissioners, our staff here at Sanitary Engineers and all others involved in the development of this project would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your patience over this past year. During this time, we've worked hard on your behalf and those efforts are now showing tangible results. The funding package this project has just received is the largest single award ever given to a Franklin County water and sewer project. For us, this shows that the whole community realizes the importance of this project, not

only to the health and welfare of the residents of the Darbydale community, but to the impact this will have on the environment along the Big Darby.

We would also like to recognize the important role and tremendous support received from the Pleasant Township Trustees. As we approach the construction phase, President Keith Goldhardt and his fellow trustees should be commended for their commitment, both financially and administratively, over these many months. Certainly, without their financial commitment, the impact would most certainly have registered as higher monthly bills to each of the system's users.

There is much work left ahead of us. It will be exciting to see the different parts of this project take shape in the coming months. The Franklin County Commissioners along with all others involved in this project pledge our continued commitment to work with you in every way we can. Our goal has and will continue to be the protection of the health and welfare of the Darbydale community.

If you have any questions concerning this project, please don't hesitate to call me at 462-3940.

Sincerely,

*Tom Shockley*

Tom Shockley  
Director  
Franklin County Sanitary Engineers

Franklin County Board of Commissioners



*Dewey R. Stokes*



*Arlene Shumaker*



*Mary Jo Lilroy*

March 2003



News Update to the Darbydale Community

Additional Funding Awarded to Darbydale Sewer Project

The county has kept its promise. When we came before the Darbydale community at your township meeting in November 2001, we told you that we would not give up on securing additional funding for the sewer improvement project. We promised you we were going to go back to the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) with a second request for funding in hopes of securing additional grants and low interest loans to reduce the projected cost of your monthly sewer bills. We are pleased to report to you that on January 22nd, the OPWC awarded to the Darbydale Project \$3,454,232 in additional funding in the form of a grant and a zero percent loan. This brings the OPWC funding total for the Darbydale Project to over 5 million dollars!

What this additional funding will mean to you is a reduction in the projected/estimated monthly sewer bill once your residence is connected into the new sewer system. At this time, we are estimating a monthly sewer bill for a family of one to be approximately \$27, for a family of two--\$34, a family of three--\$41, and a family of four--\$49. These projected monthly bills are well below the national average for a new sewer collection and treatment system of comparable size.

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## Brief History & Background of the Darbydale Sewer Improvement Project

During the past 10-15 years, the on-lot sewage disposal systems for the residents in the Darbydale community have been failing at an increasingly alarming rate. These on-lot systems include both septic with leaching fields and aerator systems which discharge off lot to a ditch or field tile. The Franklin County Board of Health (BOH) and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) have been continuously monitoring these failures for some time. During the past 10-plus years, the BOH has logged hundreds of complaints and investigations into failed aerator systems and polluting septic and leaching systems. The problem reached it peak in 1998 when 23% of all aerators failed or potentially could have failed without intervention by the BOH. These instances of failure represent a real threat to the health and well-being of the people of the Darbydale community.

Pleasant Township recognized the urgency of these failures, the continuing presence of unsanitary conditions, and the need to begin corrective actions very early in year 2000. Their efforts were directed first toward the construction of storm sewer system as a means of resolving the standing rainwater and roadside ditch pollution, as well as requesting stepped up inspections and corrective actions of the failing on-lot systems. These efforts resulted in a directive from the EPA requesting that the work be directed towards a new sanitary collection and treatment system as a permanent means to resolve the situation. By July 2000, Pleasant Township and their consultant, Floyd Browne & Associates, had begun work to design a collection and treatment system for the Darbydale community and by years end, the project had been awarded a grant in excess of \$1.6 million from the Ohio Public Works Commission.

April 2001, Pleasant Township asked the Franklin County Commissioners for assistance, operational and management support. Under the guidelines set forth in the Ohio Revised Code, Franklin County will own and operate the wastewater collection and treatment facility.

A recent report released by the Ohio EPA indicated a significant reduction of the oxygen content of the Big Darby in the area just north and south of Darbydale. This indicates that there is a high content of pollutants getting into the Darby. As a result of this and many other investigations by the Ohio EPA, the Director of the Ohio EPA issued Findings and Orders to Franklin County in December 2001 to resolve the "confirmed existence of unsanitary conditions in violation of Ohio's general water quality standards."

## Purchase of Land for Treatment Facility Complete

Franklin County is pleased to announce the purchase of the land to locate and build the sewer treatment facility for the Darbydale sewer system. Final documents and signatures have been received and the transfer of land completed. The DeVault family, owners of the Community Gardens Mobile Home Park, has sold to Franklin County approximately 14 acres of land in the northernmost section of their property. The actual plant site will be just under three acres in size but due to set-back requirements and siting restrictions, the size of actual land purchase was dictated by the need to properly locate and position the plant. The plant will be the most modern treatment facility ever built in Franklin County. Only the latest available technology has been included in the design and operation of the facility to insure full compliance with discharging permits that will be issued by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

### CURRENT PROJECT STATUS AND ACTIVITIES FOR 2003

The project engineer, Floyd Browne Associates, and this office have submitted to the Ohio EPA the final plans and documentation for review and approval.

As part of the final phase of this review and approval, the Ohio EPA has scheduled a public hearing on this project. This hearing will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 1, 2003, in the auditorium of the Pleasant View Middle School, located at 7255 Kropp Road in Grove City.

The purpose of this hearing is to solicit comments on this project from residents and concerned citizens and to inform the public of the intent, scope and purpose of the project.

Prior to this public hearing, representatives from the Franklin County Commissioners Office will deliver a presentation (beginning at 6:00 p.m.) dealing with the severity of the contamination problem, the costs associated with the project, and financial aid that will be made available to qualified homeowners by the county.

The start of construction for the treatment plant and collection system should begin in either late July or early August 2003. Work on both the plant and the collection system will be done at the same time but independent of each other. We estimate this project will be completed in the Spring of 2005.



## Connection Costs to Darbydale Homeowners

*Those homeowners who do not qualify for financial assistance will incur the following one-time costs:*

### •The cost of connecting the home or business into the mainline sewer

Historically, this cost is relative to the distance from the sewer line to the on-lot tank or work involved by the sewer taper to make the connection. This cost could range from \$800 to \$2,000. We urge you to always get three estimates of the work needed.

### •\$85 sewer permit and inspection fee

The sewer permit is issued by the Sanitary Engineer and allows the connection to be made to the new sewer system. The sewer inspection is performed by the Sanitary Engineering Department to insure the connection to the mainline sewer is completed correctly. As part of this inspection, an in-house inspection will take place to insure that all sewage and/or gray water is being directed and captured by the new sanitary sewer system. In those homes where lines are not properly connected, the homeowner will be required to make the necessary corrections.

### •A water meter must be installed on each home and business prior to issuing a sewer permit

We recommend that the water meter be purchased from the Sanitary Engineering Department. All homes and businesses will be required to have a meter installed. This meter will measure the amount of well water that is demanded by the property and will be used to compute the quarterly sewer bill. The cost of the water meter and remote reader is approximately \$100 at this time. We encourage the use of a certified plumber as the meter installation must follow the standard set by the Franklin County Sanitary Engineer. The installation of the remote reader will be done by the Sanitary Engineering Department at no cost.